

**THE HONORABLE RONALD P. WERTHEIM  
SENIOR JUDGE  
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



Ronald P. Wertheim was sworn in as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on January 6, 1982. Chief Judge H. Carl Moultrie I presided, and then Associate Judge William C. Pryor of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals administered the oath of office.

Judge Wertheim's Presidential Commission was presented by Fred F. Fielding, Counsel to the President. Remarks were made by Charles F. C. Ruff, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Judge Wertheim was born in Philadelphia in 1933. He graduated in 1950 from Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. Judge Wertheim was awarded an academic scholarship to the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in political science and received a B.S. Degree in Economics in 1954. The first Wharton School student to have articles published in the Penn Literary Review, he was elected to Beta Gamma Sigma, Pi Sigma Alpha and Pi Gamma Mu honorary societies, graduating in the top five percent of his class. In 1957, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, in which he also attended on an academic scholarship, receiving the American Jurisprudence Prizes in Constitutional Law and Labor Law and serving as Editor-in-Chief of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review.

Following law school, he entered private practice in Philadelphia with Dechert, Price & Rhoads as an associate in the firm's trial section, where for two years he was engaged primarily in personal injury and labor litigation. From 1959 to 1961 he served full time as Assistant Voluntary Defender in Philadelphia, representing indigent defendants in criminal cases in the state and federal courts. He also co-authored "A Handbook of Practice in the Philadelphia

Juvenile Court”, was Vice-Chairman of the Philadelphia Junior Bar Association, and in 1960 was a Fellow of the Salzburg Seminar in American Law and Legal Institutions in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1961, Judge Wertheim was appointed assistant professor of law, and the following year became associate professor, at the University School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia. He taught evidence, a seminar in criminal law and psychiatry, and courses in international law and international business transactions. In 1962, he received the Diploma of the Hague Academy of International Law and was a United States delegate to the International Academy of Comparative Law. While teaching at Virginia, he also was faculty advisor to the law school’s moot court program, was appointed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit to represent indigent prisoners in federal habeas corpus appeals, and published a review article on “An Inquiry Into Criminal Guilt and Law, Liberty and Psychiatry” in volume 64 of the Columbia Law Review.

Judge Wertheim moved to the District of Columbia in 1964, when he was appointed Deputy General Counsel of the Peace Corps by Sargent Shriver. From 1966 to 1969 he was Associate Peace Corps Director in Northwest Brazil. After leaving the Peace Corps, he was director for one year of a nonprofit research project in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to create legal studies curriculum materials for elementary and high schools. He then returned to the District of Columbia, where he has since resided.

Judge Wertheim was in private practice in Washington with Ginsburg, Feldman & Bress for ten years commencing in 1969, becoming a member of the firm in 1975. He was engaged largely in administrative law and federal litigation, appearing before numerous federal agencies in economic regulatory matters and before the United States District Court and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In addition to civil litigation, he represented clients before the U.S. Senate Ethics Committee and in Watergate matters before the U.S. Court of Appeals. He also was Special Counsel to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and a consultant to the Commission on Private Philanthropy and Public Needs. In 1977 he served as Advisor to the secretary of Defense for Law of the Sea Negotiations and as Alternate United States Representative to the 6<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Judge Wertheim was appointed by President Carter in 1979 to the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, the quasi-judicial tribunal responsible for adjudicating appeals of federal employees under the civil service system. In that position he wrote many of the Board’s precedential decisions interpreting the Civil Service Reform Act. He also was a liaison member of the Administrative Conference of the United States. In 1981, he was awarded the Public Service Citation of the Hispanic Organization of Professionals and Executives (HOPE) for his “contribution in setting high legal standards at the Merit Systems Protection Board by his scholarly excellence.”

He has been a member of the Secretary of State’s Public Advisory Committee on the Law of the Sea, Chairperson of the Membership Service Committee of the D.C. Bar, a member of the American Society of International Law and of the American Civil Liberties Union, founding member of the Washington Society of British History Buffs, and a trustee of Arena Stage, a

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trustee of Associates for Renewal in Education, Inc., and a founding trustee of the Capital Children's Museum.

Since appointment to the Superior Court, Judge Wertheim has received the diploma of the National Judicial College in 1982 and has been designated by Chief Judge Fred B. Ugast as delegate of the Court of the American Bar Association, Judicial Administration Section, National Conference of State Trial Judges. In 1987, he was elected to membership in The American Law Institute, where he serves on the Members Consultative Group for the Restatement on The Law Governing Lawyers.